

Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 PARIS 17951

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GENEVA FOR THE SECRETARY

5. PORTUGAL

GISCARD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO HAVE THE EEC GIVE PORTUGAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT WHILE THE SITUATION THERE REMAINS SO UNSTABLE POLITICALLY. THE GERMANS ARE VERY STRONG IN THEIR DESIRE TO GIVE SUCH SUPPORT TO PORTUGAL NOW, BUT AS GISCARD SUGGESTED, THIS PROBABLY IS DUE TO THEIR INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. GISCARD SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ABOUT THE MATTER AND HOPED THE SECRETARY WOULD ALSO DO SO. SECRETARY KISSINGER AGREED WITH GISCARD'S VIEW AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH SCHMIDT.

6. DEFENSE

PRESIDENT GISCARD REITERATED HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE COULD NOT BE INITIATED UNTIL THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCES TOWARD POLITICAL UNITY. AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE COULD NOT BE CREATED IN PARALLEL WITH STEPS TOWARD POLITICAL UNITY BUT MUST FOLLOW SUCH UNITY. HE SAID THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE WOULD REQUIRE STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO STRONG OPPOSITION FROM THE

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USSR. AS OF NOW, GISCARD SAID, ANY SUCH ATTEMPT WOULD

MEET STRONG OPPOSITION FROM BOTH THE U.S. AND THE USSR.

SECRETARY KISSINGER AGREED WITH HIS EVALUATION, AND OUTLINED THE DIFFICULTIES THE U.S. WOULD ENCOUNTER WITH ANY CONCEPT OF AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE.

GISCARD FURTHER OUTLINED HIS VIEW THAT FRANCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH NATO, AND IN FACT SHOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WHILE REMAINING OUTSIDE THE INTEGRATED COMMAND. AT THE SAME TIME, FRANCE STANDS READY TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE INTEGRATED COMMAND IN CASE OF CONFLICT.

WITH REGARD TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS (PLUTON), THE USSR HAS EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY DISCUSSION BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE FRG ON THIS SUBJECT. SINCE THE USE OF ANY TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE ON GERMAN SOIL, THE ISSUE MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH THE GERMANS, AND THE PRESIDENT IS PLANNING TO CLARIFY THIS WITH BREZHNEV NEXT OCTOBER.

WITH REGARD TO THE STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENTS, MILITARY APPLICATIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY A MATTER FOR NATO TO DECIDE, GISCARD SAID. BUT AS FAR AS THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS IS CONCERNED, GISCARD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE EC-9 SHOULD STUDY THE ISSUE AND MAKE AN EFFORT TO SEPARATE THE POLITICAL-MILITARY ASPECTS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ASPECTS.

END MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

7. ACTION ITEMS

SECRETARY IS REMINDED OF THREE ACTION ITEMS IN FOREGOING MEMCON. PARA 2 (D), SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ENERGY CONFERENCE ON MONETARY ASPECTS. PARA 2 (H), SECRETARY PROMISED TO INFORM SAUVAGNARGUES NEXT WEEK OF OUR RESPONSE TO GISCARD'S PROPOSAL THAT

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IEA NOT BE INVITED TO ENERGY CONFERENCE. PARA 9, SECRETARY PROMISED TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PURSUANT TO GISCARD'S VIEWS.
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